

Amendment – Ser. No. 09/367,244

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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as set forth in the following complete listing of claims:

1. (canceled)
2. (canceled)
3. (canceled)
4. (canceled)
5. (previously presented) A panel sawing machine comprising:
a horizontal table to support at least one panel to be cut;
at least one movable device designed to move the panel along the table in at least one of a feed direction and in a direction opposite to the feed direction, in such a way as to feed a sawing device, said sawing device being designed to cut the panel into two or more smaller boards in a direction at right angles to the feed direction, the movable device comprising first drive means, second drive means and a plurality of pickup elements mounted on the movable device side-by-side to hold a rear edge of the panel in position while the panel is being sawn, wherein at least first and second pickup elements of said plurality of pickup elements are both movable by said first drive means bi-directionally relative to the movable device laterally at right angles relative to said feed direction and wherein said first and second pickup elements are both movable by said second drive means relative to the movable device in said feed direction and a direction opposite the feed direction.
6. (previously presented) The machine according to claim 5, wherein at least one of said first and second pickup elements is also movable up and down in a vertical direction (Z) relative to said movable device.

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7. ~ 18.

19. (new) A panel feeding machine comprising:

a support surface;

a movable device for moving associated wood panels on the support surface in a first direction toward an associated sawing device and in a second direction away from the associated sawing device, said second direction being opposite said first direction;

a plurality of pickup elements mounted on the movable device and each selectively operable between an opened position and a gripping position, said pickup elements adapted to selectively grip and retain associated wood panels located on the support surface when in the gripping position and adapted to release associated wood panels located on the support surface when in the opened position;

wherein at least a first pickup element of said plurality of pickup elements is movable relative to the movable device in both the first and second opposite directions when the first pickup element is in the gripping position.

20. (new) The panel feeding machine as set forth in claim 19, wherein at least the first and also a second of said pickup elements are both movable in both the first and second directions relative to the movable device while in their respective gripping positions.